

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 - 188 without prejudice

Please add the following new claims:

189. (NEW) A system for extended player retention at a gaming machine comprising:

apparatus for a player to make wagers to play the gaming machine; said gaming machine includes a processor configured to randomly generate wager losing and wager winning outcomes, at least one outcome designated as a qualifying event;

means for detecting repetitive occurrences of said qualifying event and for counting the same;

said processor configured to determine N repetitive occurrences of said qualifying event and in response to said determination issue a jackpot award to the player obtaining the Nth qualifying event outcome.

190. (NEW) The system of claim 189 comprising said processor configured to set said designated event as a preselected winning outcome.

191. (NEW) A method for extending play by a player at a gaming machine comprising:

the player making wagers to play the gaming machine; the player prompting play of the gaming machine to generate winning and losing outcomes, issuing an award to the player for obtaining winning outcomes and designating at least one outcome as a jackpot qualifying outcome;

counting the number of qualifying outcomes and when the number of qualifying

outcomes reaches a number N , issuing an award to the player obtaining the N th qualifying outcome.